This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

Y4.C66: F66/pt.3

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES FOR FLOUR-MILL AND CORN-MILL PRODUCTS, ETC.

Stanford University Libraries
3 6105 119 648 736

AUG 30 1921
DOCUMENT DIV.
STANFORD LIBRARIES

P98-66

HEARINGS

BEFORE

THE COMMITTEE ON COINAGE, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

ON

H. R. 4901

A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE STANDARD OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES FOR THE FOLLOWING WHEAT-MILL AND CORN-MILL PRODUCTS, NAMELY, FLOURS, HOMINY, GRITS, AND MEALS, AND ALL COMMERCIAL FEEDING STUFFS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1921

PART 3

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

COMMITTEE ON COINAGE, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIXTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

ALBERT H. VESTAL, Indiana, *Chairman.*

JOHN M. ROSE, Pennsylvania.
CLIFFORD IRELAND, Illinois.
FLORIAN LAMPERT, Wisconsin.
JOHN REBER, Pennsylvania.
R. CLINT COLE, Ohio.
MICHAEL J. HOGAN, New York.
FRANK H. FUNK, Illinois.
W. M. MORGAN, Ohio.
THOMAS J. RYAN, New York.
RANDOLPH PERKINS, New Jersey.
SAMUEL M. BRINSON, North Carolina.
CLAY STONE BRIGGS, Texas.
LILIUS B. RAINEY, Alabama.
PATRICK HENRY DREWRY, Virginia.
LADISLAS LAZARO, Louisiana.
BILL G. LOWREY, Mississippi.
J. KUHIO KALANIANAOLE, Hawaii.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES FOR FLOUR-MILL AND CORN-MILL PRODUCTS, ETC.

COMMITTEE ON COINAGE, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Friday June 3, 1921.

The committee this day met, Hon. Albert H. Vestal (chairman) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. If there is no objection, we will proceed, in the absence of a quorum, to hear the testimony of the parties who are here this morning, continuing the consideration of H. R. 4901, a bill to establish the standard of weights and measures for the following wheat-mill and corn-mill products, namely, flours, hominy, grits, and meals, all commercial feeding stuffs, and for other purposes.

Mr. Blaine, of Seattle, Wash., is here and we will be glad to hear what he has to say relative to this proposition at this time.

STATEMENT OF MR. E. F. BLAINE, OF SEATTLE, WASH., REPRESENTING THE NORTH PACIFIC MILLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Mr. BLAINE. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I am here as the representative of the North Pacific Millers' Association, which includes some 95 per cent of the flour milling capacity of Washington, Oregon, and northern Idaho.

I do not wish to qualify myself as an expert witness but to say that for four years I was chairman of the Public Service Commission of the State of Washington and the grain grading of the State of Washington was under the supervision of the public service commission of that State at that time. So I became more or less familiar with the grain conditions in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. I have also had occasion to deal somewhat in mill feeds.

This bill, which has been approved, and is approved, meets with the approval of the people whom I represent on this occasion, but they are very much opposed to the elimination of the 60, 70, and 80 pound packages. I believe they are warranted in their opposition to the elimination of these packages.

I judge, from what has been said in the prior hearings, that you are not trying to establish a metric system of weights, but you are seeking, so far as may lie within your power, to eliminate fraud and deception.

I note that as this bill is drawn, however, it would not suit a great many people in the United States. It does not suit the exporters of flour and it does not meet with the approval of the millers, in that

they do not wish to be confined to a 100-pound package of flour, wheat flour, or corn meal.

The reason they are not satisfied with the 100-pound package is that the 140-pound package has entered into the foreign and domestic trade for a great many years, and they hate to interrupt that trade.

I think it is said with a good deal of force that we are trying, to the best of our ability, to enter the foreign markets. We have entered the foreign markets to a certain extent; we want to save what we have gained, and we want to gain more.

The first essential to consider in reference to the foreign market is to put up a package that the foreign trade demands. That is essential wherever you go, whether it is in the Orient, in South America, in England, or in continental Europe. Out on our coast we have had a great deal of trouble in putting up our packages to suit the Japanese and Chinese. We have tried to the best of our ability to do that, and they, in turn, strive to meet our conditions and put up packages to suit our trade.

Personally, I doubt the advisability of making changes in present conditions unless there is some underlying reason for those changes. Of course, the principal underlying reason would be the elimination of fraud and deception. But how are you going to eliminate fraud and deception if you have packages which are so near the same size?

The CHAIRMAN. Do you mean to say, Mr. Blaine, that the milling interests of the country are opposed to this legislation?

Mr. BLAINE. No; I do not mean to say that the milling interests of the entire country are opposed to the legislation.

The CHAIRMAN. I was going to say that I have yet to find the first milling interest in the country to be opposed to the legislation; they are all for it.

Mr. BLAINE. I am not saying that they are opposed to this legislation. I am saying this: That as the bill is now drawn the millers of the East and the millers of the Southwest want the 140-pound package; they want that in addition to that provided for in this proposed legislation, and they have set forth, in my mind, substantial reasons why they should have that package. But we of the Northwest are not interested in that package; we are interested in another bag, and that is what we know all over the Northwest as the gunny sack.

There is no way of our displacing that gunny sack. Ninety-five per cent of all the wheat raised in Washington, in Oregon, in Idaho, and parts of Montana and parts of California is handled in the gunny sack. That is an essential thing. Its use is due to the conditions which exist in the Northwest. You should not overlook the fact that a great many of our wheat fields are very remote from railroad stations or steamboat wharves. We load our wheat upon our wagons and trailers and haul it many miles, often on a very rough road. So, the first essential for us is to have a proper package, one that will stay in place.

You people who have been in the Northwest and have seen with what care they load the gunny sacks on the wagons, and particularly on the trailers, will realize that it is of some importance that we have a uniform size of sack, and the best form of sack we have yet been able to buy in that country is this peculiar shaped sack which will hold about 135 pounds of wheat, and which stays in place in the

wagon box that is fixed to hold it. It is a convenient package; it is not overweight and it is not underweight. It is probable that each year sixty or more millions of these sacks are used.

The State of Washington has produced as high as 57,000,000 bushels of wheat in a year, the State of Idaho has produced as much as 35,000,000 bushels, Oregon has produced almost as much, and California comes in for a large amount of wheat production, and I know it is a fact that in the State of Washington all these grains, in the main, are handled in gunny sacks.

Now, the grain, when it is brought to the mill, is taken out of the gunny sack and ground, and the gunny sack becomes secondhand. It has further use, and that is for the purpose of putting up mill feed, such as bran, rolled oats, rolled barley, mill-run of shorts, etc. They are never used to put up flour or anything that is going into human consumption, but only those things which are used for animal consumption.

All of us out on the Pacific coast know that this gunny sack, if it is filled full will hold 60 pounds of bran. By packing it very close you might get 65 pounds of bran in it.

Mr. LOWREY. Is that the sack that contains 135 pounds of wheat?

Mr. BLAINE. Yes, sir.

Mr. LOWREY. It takes a little less than half that weight of bran?

Mr. BLAINE. Yes; and it will take 70 pounds of rolled oats or rolled barley, and it will take 80 pounds of mill-run.

Mr. BRIGGS. What do you call mill-run?

Mr. BLAINE. It is the coarse stuff that comes out—that does not make flour.

Mr. LOWREY. What is that used for?

Mr. BLAINE. It goes into various uses; it is used for chicken feed and hog feed. There has always been a shortage of the by-products of wheat in our country. The by-products in our country bring higher prices than they do in the Middle West, because there we have to feed the by-products to a good many cows and hogs and poultry, and we use those by-products very closely.

I might say to the committee, in order to show how keen the question of by-products is in our country, that we have had several fights between the farmers and the millers over what comes out in the milling—pieces of cob and grain and things of that sort—and the farmers have been fighting for a long time to have the millers account to them for those offal.

The farmers claim that the millers sold those by-products during the war period for from $40 to $60 a ton, and it did not cost nearly as much as that for the cleaning. So you can make up your minds that all forms of by-products have a high value, so that this proposition is a very important matter to the farmers.

Now, again, this wheat which is sacked in these gunny sacks brings a higher price—from 5 to 9 cents more a bushel—than bulk wheat, and we have very little bulk wheat in the Northwest.

During the last three years we have put in two bulk elevators, one at Seattle and one at Portland, and I think those are the only two public bulk elevators in the Northwest. I believe they do have some in California; that I am not familiar with.

Those elevators are used by the farmers who are closer to the railroads, where they can bring their wheat in bulk from the grain

fields and put it into the car or into the small bulk elevators at the siding. Practically all the warehouses in the Northwest are built for the storage of sack grain.

That is our condition, Mr. Chairman, and when I say that is the condition in the Northwest I mean practically the entire Pacific coast.

If you establish only one size sack—a 75-pound sack—you will leave us in this awkward situation. You can not get 75 pounds of bran in that sack. It will hold more than that of the mill-run. So you are giving us a package that is not of a uniform size.

This brings up another case which happens in our country. That is in connection with the loading of cars. The people on the Pacific coast and in the far West use much larger cars than are used in this part of the country. We have hardly any small cars in the West, on our western roads, which are owned by the western roads. The small cars come in there once in a while from the eastern and southern roads. But we get the big cars and we have difficulty to load those big cars to their minimum capacity. It is next to impossible to load those cars to minimum capacity with products at the mill, and it is next to impossible to load them to minimum capacity with these light feedstuffs.

The smaller and the more awkward you make the package the harder it is to load to minimum capacity. But if you give us a uniform package and a fair-sized package we can load the car close to minimum, but not always to minimum. We could do it with bran, but you could not do it with some other products.

You ought not to penalize the Northwest by having an odd-sized package, and it stands to reason that as you multiply the packages that go into the car you lose in space. It would be unfortunate, indeed, if you give that provision to us.

Then, again, we also send out mixed carloads of bran, shorts, etc. If you are going to give us all these different sizes of packages to go into the same car you will defeat our purpose in establishing a high minimum.

We have been striving all during the war period, and prior to the war period, to put up the minimum in our cars. I remember very distinctly when I was chairman of the public service commission out there that there was a question of increasing the load of cars containing potatoes. You get a minimum weight of potatoes, and we used to load the cars four sacks high with potatoes. We use gunny sacks for potatoes out there, too. The car men wanted us to put in potatoes piled five sacks high. It happens that our potatoes are thin-skinned potatoes, and they grow more rapidly than the potatoes in other places, and the skins would be rubbed off if you loaded them five sacks high.

We compromised with the railroad companies and told them that during a certain season of the year we would load the potatoes four sacks high, and we would load the late potatoes five sacks high. But the railroads were after a high minimum, and we wanted to have a high minimum, but we did not want it so high that it was going to injure or destroy the product shipped. So this question of the high minimum enters into the railroad rates in our country probably more than it does in this section of the country, where your

hauls are comparatively short, as compared with our hauls out in the northwest.

Then again you have, in this section of the country, your small cars and you also have your small town merchants to deal with. We handle everything in a larger way than you do in this section of the country. So that for that reason also we do not want this package changed.

Mr. MORGAN. Do you sell this seed by the ton, or by the hundred pounds?

Mr. BLAINE. All of it is sold by weight. I have had experience with the supervision of this matter and there never was a time when it was not sold by weight, and I have never bought a sack of mill feed by the sack in my life.

Mr. MORGAN. And all the mills, in turn, sell it by weight?

Mr. BLAINE. All the mills sell it by weight.

Mr. MORGAN. Who furnishes the bags?

Mr. BLAINE. The farmers have the bags and they ship the grain in the bags and they get credit for the bags, and the bags go back filled with mill feed. That is true all over the State.

Mr. MORGAN. That is an exchange proposition, is it?

Mr. BLAINE. It is a credit proposition. They get so much grain ground at the mill in bulk.

Mr. MORGAN. Is that a sale or an exchange?

Mr. BLAINE. That is a sale to the mill. The mill buys the wheat and grinds it into flour and by-products, and they sell the flour and use the by-products. There is no exchange; it is a sale in all instances. We do not know any such thing out there as taking the wheat to the mill and getting something in exchange for it.

Mr. MORGAN. Then the bag reverts back to the miller and he practically absorbs the bag in the purchase price of the wheat?

Mr. BLAINE. He does, and he uses it to send out his feed. Most of our mills send out large quantities of feed. Our big flour mills have feed mills connected with them and those mills take care of the by-products. Sometimes they buy the stuff for the purpose of putting it into feed.

Unless you permit this use of these second-hand bags you will injure the peole of the northwest to the amount that you destroy the use of those things, and that will run into several hundred thousand dollars a year.

There is no good purpose to be served by this because any ordinary person who knows the difference between bran and rolled oats or rolled barley or shorts, can not mistake the substance. Ordinarily, such a man can at once distinguish the difference and can tell by the handling of the bags what the stuff is. You do not have to look into the bag to tell that it is wheat, because the bag indicates it. So there is no room for fraud.

Then again, this is handled by weight. It would not make any difference what mark was on the bag, we weigh it anyway. There is no exception to that. It would be a very foolish person indeed who would go and pick out a sack of bran or a sack of shorts, or anything like that unless it was first thrown on the scales and weighed. Every merchant expects to do that.

I have bought it and handled it myself and have gone to the place in the little town where it is sold, and I have never bought a sack except by weight.

So I want to say to you that your weights provided for here—marked upon the bags—will have very little significance in the Northwest unless you try to make this mode of dealing exclusive of all others. I doubt the propriety of that.

Take, for instance, our apples. You gentlemen all know that the Pacific coast prides itself on its fruit pack. I do not know any single law out there that compels the orchardist to put up his packages in that way. If he wants to put up grades, he marks everything according to law, but the law permits him to sell his fruit, orchard run, without grades.

The CHAIRMAN. I may say, Mr. Blaine, that during the last eight years, through this committee, representatives from the Northwest have been very anxious to have introduced in every session of Congress, a bill to standardize the apple box in the Northwest.

Mr. BLAINE. Is not this the fact, Mr. Chairman? You wanted to get us to use a little different box than we are used to out there. Is that not true? As I understand it, we wanted our standard box to remain the standard. That is my recollection of it. I may be mistaken about that, and if I am you can correct me. We have a standard box that we have had for a long time.

Mr. MORGAN. Are not these standards you talk about fixed standards of the trade, and the standard that is fixed according to the size of the package, or the size of the box used can be changed to some other standard? It is only a matter of trade conditions. The standard is fixed so far as the box is concerned. There is a 25-pound box of prunes that is standard?

Mr. BLAINE. Yes.

Mr. MORGAN. And a 50-pound box that is standard?

Mr. BLAINE. Yes.

Mr. MORGAN. That is your standard of size for prunes, and it is a matter of trade custom.

Mr. BLAINE. Yes; but I say that the West stands for standard packages in fruit.

Mr. MORGAN. I think you are right about that.

Mr. BLAINE. We would not dispense with it under any circumstances. We have no objection to this law establishing standards; I think it is good. But do not establish a standard that is going to hurt us in our trade.

Mr. MORGAN. In reference to the bags to which you referred as being used out there, I am a handler of grain in a comparatively large way, handling it from the farmers in bags and dumping it after it arrives in the elevator.

Mr. BLAINE. The bags go back.

Mr. MORGAN. Or we own the bags, whichever the case may be. Is it not possible to fix standard bags, to get some uniformity in feeds and mill by-products of the Northwest, as compared with the Central West and the Eastern States?

Mr. BLAINE. In regard to that question, I think if you study the geography and the trade maps of our country you will find mighty little exchange between the Middle States, the West, the Northwest,

the Middle West, or the South. The millers of the East do not ship feed stuffs into the Northwest, and we in turn do not ship those feed stuffs out of that country. We are a very large country. So on the question of flour, the standard bag for flour is a splendid thing because you sell into our country and we sell into the other parts of the country.

Mr. MORGAN. I see the logic of your statement, but I am trying to arrive at the proposition as to whether other standards could not be fixed to have them more uniform.

Mr. BLAINE. Not as to our gunny sacks. It all turns on the question of our gunny sacks. We do not want to be thrown out of the use by the millers of the second hand sacks each year. That would be very unfortunate, and there is nothing that could be saved by that.

The question of fraud or deception can not enter into that proposition. I agree that when you get sacks that weigh within 10 pounds of each other, that are within 10 pounds of each other in weight capacity, in handling flour you may fool a person, but you can not fool people when you are selling them bran or rolled oats or feedstuffs or shorts,

So we ask you to let us continue the use of gunny sacks. That was agreed to when this bill was approved, and it was thoroughly understood that the standard of 60 pounds for bran, 70 pounds for rolled oats and barley, and 80 pounds for mill run was to be established, and if that is established you will have the support of all the people of the Northwest, because we are not finding fault with the standard bag of flour. We think it is a good thing, because we are shipping our flours, which are splendid for hot bread and pastries, all over the South and into the East. We have a special market for those flours because of their peculiar qualities, that make a better hot bread and better cakes and pastry than the flours of Minnesota or the Dakotas. So, each year we are increasing the shipments of our flours into the South.

Mr. LOWREY. You spoke of trying to adapt your packages on the coast to the Chinese and Japanese markets. Do you ship your grain products to China and Japan?

Mr. BLAINE. Yes.

Mr. LOWREY. This bill does not in any wise interfere with the packages you send to the foreign markets?

Mr. BLAINE. Not at all; that is only grain going out. Of course, they have some mills now in China and in Japan, and we send our grain to them in the bags.

Mr. LOWREY. Do you make the grain into grain products?

Mr. BLAINE. We send a good deal of flour—more flour than grain.

Mr. LOWREY. What bag do you use for your flour?

Mr. BLAINE. I think it is practically the standard bag.

Mr. LOWREY. You do not use the 140-pound bag?

Mr. BLAINE. No; I have never seen any 140-pound bag out there.

Mr. LOWREY. It seems that is used pretty generally in the trade with Europe?

Mr. BLAINE. Yes. So far as I have noticed those bags, I think they are the 50-pound sacks. I have never looked closely at them to

examine them, but I think the 50-pound sack is used in the oriental trade.

So, in asking you to let these things stay in, it is not doing violence to this bill, because Mr. Husband said the 100-pound package does not defeat the purposes of the bill, and if the 100-pound package does not defeat the purposes of the bill, the 60, 70, and 80 pound packages can not defeat the purposes of the bill.

So I trust the committe will see its way clear to leave the three sizes of packages in the bill, as it was written.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Moore, do you desire to address the committee?

STATEMENT OF MR. THOMAS L. MOORE, OF THE DUNLOP MILLS, RICHMOND, VA., REPRESENTING THE MILLERS' NATIONAL FEDERATION AND THE AMERICAN CORN MILLERS' FEDERATION.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I feel that the subjects that I am interested in have been so thoroughly canvassed before this committee that there is nothing that I can add to what has been said.

I am satisfied that every member of the committee approves of the decimal basis, and the only point, as I see it, that seems to be giving you trouble, is the 140-pound package. I do not see why that question should be further discussed before you because I think every member understands why that is asked for. It is asked for because it is a convertible package that can be used either for export or domestic trade, and it is a character of package that absolutely can not be responsible for fraud in any form.

It is essentially a baker's or manufacturer's package and can not be used in the small trade. The bakers and manufacturers are absolutely familiar with it. I believe we all understand that the 140-pound package carries with it every substantial feature that is desired, and I trust the committee will see that it is kept in.

The CHAIRMAN. I might say to the committee that in answer to my telegrams and letters to the millers of the Pacific coast and the Northwest, every reply has been a protest against the elimination of the 60, 70, and 80 pound packages for commercial feeding stuffs.

I have a telegram from Mr. W. C. Tiffany, secretary of the North Pacific Millers' Association, turned over to me by Congressman J. S. Webster, a letter from the South Pacific Millers' Association at San Francisco, one from the Wasco Milling Co., of The Dalles, Oreg., one from the Continental Milling Co., of Seattle, Wash.; and a telegram from the Northwest Grain and Feed Dealers' Association of Seattle; a long telegram from the Fisher Flouring Mills Co., of Seattle, and many other concerns in that part of the country.

I have also had a number of letters from Senators from the northwestern States and from Members of Congress from the Pacific coast States and the northwestern States, all of them protesting against the elimination of the 60, 70, and 80 pound packages, practically for the same reasons which have been given by Mr. Blaine before the committee this morning.

If there is no objection, I will put these telegrams and letters in the record.

(The telegrams and letters are as follows:)

SEATTLE, WASH., *May 26.*

Hon. J. S. WEBSTER,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.:

There will be a hearing of House Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures on decimal weight bill at Washington June 3. Hon. A. H. Vestal's (chairman) bill provides for decimal weight for flour, meals, and feeding stuffs except that in bill as passed by Senate 60, 70, and 80-pound sacks for feeding stuffs were added at instance of Pacific coast millers. Mr. Vestal advises that House committee is disposed to cut out the feeding-stuffs packages and substitute one package of 75 pounds. About 60,000,000 sacks used annually in Pacific coast States for marketing grain, for which buyers pay farmers 7 to 11 cents per sack. If the sacks were not used for packing mill feeds would have little value, and buyers could pay farmers comparatively less for same. All wheat and barley sacks are of uniform size, and it is physically impossible to pack them with more than 60 pounds bran, 70 pounds shorts, or 80 pounds mill-run or middling; therefore of immense importance to Pacific coast that 60, 70, and 80-pound sacks for feeding stuffs be retained in bill. Secondhand grain sacks have little value except for packing mill feeds, and if not used an immense economic loss would result, which would fall on farmers and consumers and not on manufacturers. Earnestly request you to use influence with committee in preventing elimination of 60, 70, and 80-pound feeding stuffs packages. If bill is reported by committee with these packages eliminated its passage would be strenuously opposed by all grain growers on the Pacific coast. This association represents practically all flour millers in Washington, Oregon, and northern Idaho.

W. C. TIFFANY,
Secretary North Pacific Millers' Association.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC MILLERS' ASSOCIATION,
San Francisco, Calif., May 26, 1921.

Hon. A. H. VESTAL,
Chairman Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: This office is in receipt of your courteous letter of May 20, and the members of this association appreciate the postponing of the hearing on the elimination of certain feed sacks until Friday, June 3, in order that the Pacific coast millers might have an opportunity to present their views.

The members of this association, covering California, Arizona, and Nevada, believe in the interest of economy that it is not practicable to discontinue the use of 60, 70, or 80 pound feed packages. This also applies to the suggested 75-pound sacks, and the reasons, which we desire to repeat, were given to you on May 18 in the following self-explanatory telegram:

"South Pacific Millers' Association, including all wheat-flour mills in California, Arizona, and Nevada, respectfully protest against elimination of 60, 70, and 80 pound feed packages from decimal weight bill for reason it is absolutely necessary for this territory to include these sizes. Elimination of these packages will increase cost to consumer and will prove uneconomical to all concerned. For your information, practically all barley, wheat, corn, and all other grain this territory is placed in bags when harvested and not handled in bulk as in East. Only use for these bags originally containing these grains is for 60, 70, and 80 pound feed packages."

As an illustration, if the law is passed only allowing 75-pound packages, the Pacific coast millers would be in a position of not being able to use grain bags after the grain had been removed, as they are using them now. For instance, the mills make a product called light bran, which is used largely for the feeding of horses, and this light bran does not contain any shorts or middlings, thus making it a very bulky article, and only 60 pounds can be put in the grain bag. There are other products which can only be packed in 70-pound packages, as this is all the bag will hold. There are still other products that can be packed 80-pound, as the bag will hold that very easily, and in the interest of economy we feel that we should put in the bag all that it will hold and not just 75 pounds.

We want to impress upon you and your committee the necessity for using the grain bags as referred to in our wire of above, and thereby prevent a serious economic loss to the dealers in this part of the country.

Respectfully, yours,

R. C. MASON, *Secretary.*

WASCO WAREHOUSE MILLING CO.,
The Dalles, Oreg., May 24, 1921.

Hon. A. H. VESTAL,
Chairman House Committee Coinage, Weights, and Measures,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: We acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, advising that it was suggested in the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures to compromise on the weights asked by the Pacific coast millers of 60, 70, and 80 pound sacks, for commercial feeding stuffs, to a 75-pound sack.

In the first place it might be in order to advise you the conditions under which we operate in this country. As we stated in our telegram, practically 85 per cent of the wheat handled is in bags, the farmers buying the bags, paying the market price, and when they sell their wheat the buyer gives them a premium over bulk to approximately the value of the second-hand bags to be used by the mills for holding their feeding stuffs. After these bags have been filled with wheat by the farmers to the extent of about 130 to 135 pounds and delivered to the warehouse, and then in turn shipped from the warehouse to the mill, where they are emptied, the bags are more or less deteriorated in strength and will therefore not stand any great amount of pressure.

The mills here manufacture, in feedstuffs, bran, shorts, mill-run, and middlings. It is practically impossible to pack over 60 pounds of bran in one of these sacks, and we find the best economy in not trying to pack over 70 pounds of shorts or mill-run and 80 pounds of middlings. You therefore will see that if we make the weights 75 pounds only, that it will necessitate purchasing new sacks to hold bran and mill-run. This, you can see, would practically eliminate a great many of these second-hand sacks and would practically be a waste of junk upon the millers' hands, in which case the miller could not afford to pay the farmer the premium on sacked wheat as he is now doing. Therefore the loss would revert to a certain extent on the farmer.

The millers of this Pacific coast have considered this question very thoroughly and we feel practically a unit in our conclusion that if we do not obtain concession in the Weights and Measures Burea, permitting us to pack feed stuffs in 60, 70, and 80 pounds, that there will be a great loss in these second-hand sacks, as there is no other market that we know of at this time that would consume them.

From the fact that it is a long and extensive journey to Washington, and that the millers of this country do not feel that they can afford to spend any unnecessary money in the face of the severe loss we have all had to take during this last year, we feel we are willing to leave this matter in your hands, believing you will look after it in a fair and business-like way.

The millers have no other object in asking for these weights than that of using up the second-hand bags. Hence, our request is not one of selfishness or one attempting to gain any advantage over any other section of the United States.

If it is not too much trouble, we would ask that you write us the conclusion of the committee in the meeting of June 3 that you refer to.

Yours, truly,

WASCO WAREHOUSE MILLING CO.
E. O. MCCOY.

CENTENNIAL MILL CO.,
Seattle, May 25, 1921.

Hon. A. H. VESTAL,
Chairman Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Your favor of 20th instant to hand acknowledging our wire protest in regard to cutting out of 60-pound, 70-pound, and 80-pound bags for feeding stuffs in decimal weight bill, and for which we note your committee suggests a 75-pound sack as a substitute.

Please be advised that in our opinion this will not meet the requirements at all, as the secondhand wheat bags we get are used for different manufactured products, as stated in our wire, viz, 60-pound bran, 70-pound shorts, and 80-pound middlings and mill-run, as well as for different stock feeds, and if we are held down to 75 pounds only this will be very little help to us.

We are glad to note that your committee is not in favor of causing any great economic loss, which is the real matter at issue, but this economic waste will not, as we view it, fall on the manufacturer but upon the Pacific Northwest farmer, who sacks his grain and sells it as sacked grain and the buyers allow the farmer from 3 cents to 5 cents per bushel, which figures 7 cents to 11 cents per bag. This is based on market value of grain bags. Therefore, if the manufacturer can not use any volume of these bags for his manufactured product the allowances for bags will have to be cut down to a point where they can be sold, which will be very small and the farmer will have to take the loss.

We understand the North Pacific Millers' Association, of which we are members, will be unable to send a representative to your June 3 meeting, but will endeavor to have Mr. A. P. Husband, secretary of the National Millers' Federation, appear before you to explain further.

We appreciate your endeavor to minimize the amount of different weight packages to be authorized, but we feel positive that when your committee fully understands our situation the weights mentioned above will be retained in the present bill.

Thanking you, we remain,

Yours, very truly,

CENTENNIAL MILL CO.,
By L. C. BAUMAN,
Assistant General Manager.

SEATTLE, WASH., *May 25, 1921.*

A. H. VESTAL,
Chairman House Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures,
Washington, D. C.:

Northwest Grain and Feed Dealers' Association, representing 85 per cent of feed manufacturing capacity of Washington, protests against the substitution of a 75-pound package in place of 60, 70, and 80 pound packages. Wheat, barley, and oat feeds are sold out in same sacks in which grains originally arrive at the mills for sake of economy to consumer as well as manufacturer. Standard packages rolled barley and ground oats, 80 pounds; rolled oats, wheat shorts, 70 pounds; wheat bran, 60 pounds. These weights standardized by years of business practice based on the use of the same sacks as originally contained whole grain. To change will entail additional expense to both consumer and manufacturer and effect only hardship and loss.

NORTHWEST GRAIN AND FEED DEALERS' ASSOCIATION.

SEATTLE, WASH.

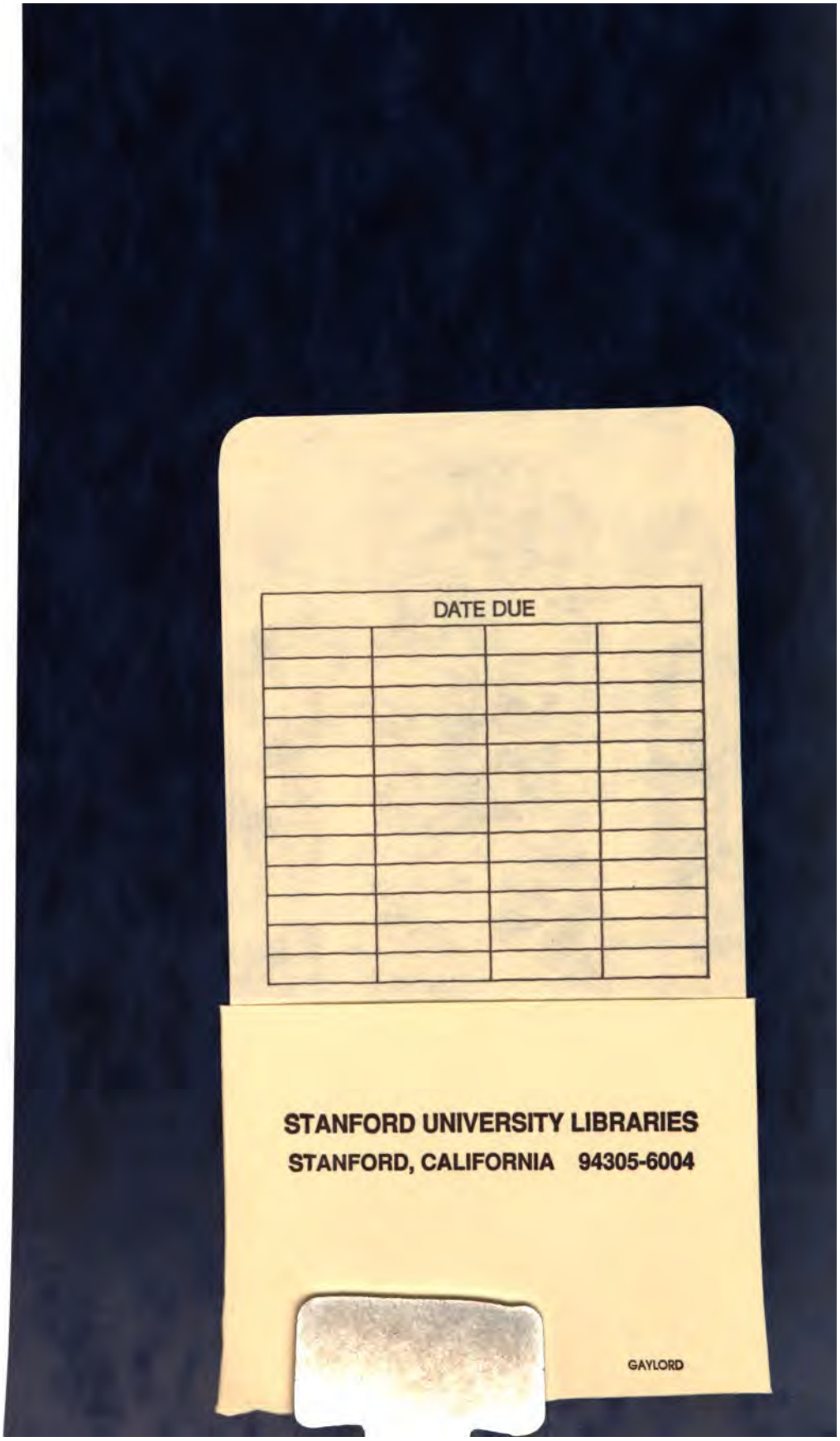
Hon. A. H. VESTAL,
Chairman Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.:

Thank you for your letter of the 23d just received. We appreciate that part of your letter, "We are anxious to have an early report of this bill, also anxious to have it such that it will not cause a great economic loss to dealers in any part of the country." We can not impress upon you too strongly the seriousness of the Pacific coast situation if the suggested law should prevent the utilization of secondhand grain bags. There are used by farmers in the grain districts of Pacific Coast States annually approximately 60,000,000 grain bags. Probably 95 per cent of all grain harvested in Pacific Coast States is sacked at thrasher and marketed in sacks; very few elevators in the interior for handling bulk grain. Wholly impractical and useless to consider farmers will market grain in bulk. It would take years and millions of dollars to build elevators sufficient to take care of grain in bulk. The farmer gets a premium for his sacked grain equivalent to approximately the value of grain bag. If flour and feed mills are required to use other style bags than standard wheat bag for feeds, the economic loss to farmer, miller, and consumer jointly will amount to millions of dollars annually, as there is no other mar-

ket that would consume the bags that have been used by the farmer for marketing grain. These bags are 22 by 36 inches in size and will hold only from 60 to 65 pounds wheat bran, 70 pounds rolled oats and rolled barley, 80 pounds mill run and shorts. Your suggestion of package of 75 pounds would not suffice. The sack would be too small to hold 75 pounds bran or rolled barley or rolled oats and it would hold 5 pounds more of shorts or mill run than your 75-pound weight would permit, thereby causing an economic loss. Pacific coast millers are heartily in favor of the bill as it now stands, and it can not be changed to cash elimination of 60, 70, and 80 pound sacks for feeds without a tremendous economic loss which would be wholly unjust to the farmer and consumer who ultimately would have to foot the bill and would prevent Pacific coast manufacturer from utilizing the most practical and economical package for his product. We urge you not to permit a change in 60, 70, and 80 pound provisions for feed, thereby averaging an economic loss of millions of dollars annually which naturally would be seriously and justly protested by farming communities. These wheat bags hold approximately 135 pounds wheat and are as large as is practical to handle for wheat. We have wired Mr. E. F. Blain now in Washington to appear before you.

FISHER FLOURING MILLS CO.

(Thereupon the committee adjourned.)


DATE DUE
STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305-6004
GAYLORD